GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3732
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
RESEARCH ON EGGS
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian scientists have discovered that chicken eggs can become a source of molecules to treat snake bites; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. In a study being conducted at the Vittal Mallaya Scientific Research Foundation, Bangalore supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, it has been found that chicken eggs can become a source of anti-venom to treat snake-bites against all four common Indian poisonous snakes, viz. Bungarus caeruleus (krait), Naja naja (cobra), Echis carinatus (saw-scaled viper) and Vipera russelli (Russell`s viper) in isolation as well as in combination. Preliminary results have been encouraging. Currently, standardization of purification methods for large scale production of IgY antibodies and chronic toxicity and immunotoxicity studies to establish the safety of the final ASV preparations for administration to snakebite victims have been undertaken.